

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 149

Introduced by Assembly Member Gipson

March 7, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 149—Relative to taxation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 149, as introduced, Gipson. Taxation.

This measure would encourage state entities to identify and utilize existing and potential public or private partnerships to inform citizens and employees about the availability of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance programs, as specified.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Each year, Californians volunteer their time to
2 participate in the federal Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
3 program and are trained by public and private partnerships with
4 the Internal Revenue Service to prepare tax returns; and
5 WHEREAS, VITA is a free tax preparation program that helps
6 low- to moderate-income filers. During tax season, there are free
7 sites accessible across the nation; and
8 WHEREAS, Insufficient income contributes to many of the
9 social and human service needs in our state; and
10 WHEREAS, Increasing Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
11 capture through the VITA program represents a highly
12 cost-effective economic development strategy; and
13 WHEREAS, Each year, as a result of the VITA program, the
14 EITC helps approximately 285,000 low-income households in

1 California and brings more than \$347 million into California's
2 economy; and

3 WHEREAS, The Internal Revenue Service and other
4 organizations collaborate with local agencies to offer VITA to
5 raise awareness of the EITC; and

6 WHEREAS, Local colleges throughout California serve as
7 instrumental partners of the VITA program, and create ideal and
8 accessible locations for surrounding community residents to receive
9 free tax assistance and family resource services; and

10 WHEREAS, These colleges generously provide the use of their
11 campus facilities, equipment, and student volunteers - who make
12 up a significant portion of trained and certified tax preparers for
13 VITA events - to enable the success of the VITA program; now,
14 therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
16 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature joins the Controller's
17 office, the State Board of Equalization, the Franchise Tax Board,
18 and the Internal Revenue Service in promoting the EITC and VITA
19 programs to qualified families and individuals; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages each state entity to
21 identify and utilize existing and potential public or private
22 partnerships to inform citizens about the availability of the federal
23 and state EITC and VITA programs; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
25 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.